

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A kit for shipping and preparing baked food products having a sensitive outer marginal portion, comprising:

5 a frustoconical receptacle having a bottom, an open top, and an outer rim at the open top;

a food product disposed within said receptacle, below said outer rim;

10 a baking shield including an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding therefrom when in an installed position;

the baking shield further including an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening when in the installed position;

15 the baking shield stored at the bottom of the receptacle; and

a shipping carton surrounding the receptacle and the baking shield.

2. The kit of claim 1 wherein the shipping 20 carton includes a bottom wall supporting the bottom of the receptacle and the baking shield.

3. The kit of claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a frustoconical shape

4. The kit of claim 3 wherein the bottom of 25 the receptacle is received in the central opening of the baking shield so as to cooperate with the shipping carton to maintain the baking shield in a controlled position during shipping.

5. The kit of claim 1 wherein the baking 30 shield is stored at the bottom of the receptacle in a position inverted from the storage position.

6. The kit of claim 1 wherein the sidewall of the baking shield has a first frustoconical portion and a second annular portion.

7. The kit of claim 1 wherein the sidewall of
5 the baking shield includes an annular trough portion having a first end adjacent the outer rim of the receptacle and a second end extending toward the center of the receptacle.

8. The kit of claim 6 wherein the second end
10 of the annular trough portion is disposed below the outer rim of the receptacle.

9. The kit of claim 1 wherein said food product comprises a pizza pie.

10. The kit of claim 1 wherein the baking
15 shield is made of metal foil.

11. The kit of claim 1 wherein the receptacle is made of metal foil.

12. A packaging kit for shipping baking utensils, comprising:

20 a frustoconical receptacle having a bottom, an open top, and an outer rim at the open top;

a baking shield including an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding therefrom when in an installed position;

25 the baking shield further including an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening when in the installed position;

the baking shield stored at the bottom of the receptacle; and

a shipping carton surrounding the receptacle and the baking shield.

13. The kit of claim 12 wherein the receptacle has a frustoconical shape and the bottom of
5 the receptacle is received in the central opening of the baking shield so as to cooperate with the shipping carton to maintain the baking shield in a controlled position during shipping.

14. The kit of claim 12 wherein the baking
10 shield is stored at the bottom of the receptacle in a position inverted from the storage position.

15. The kit of claim 12 wherein the shipping carton includes a bottom wall supporting the bottom of the receptacle and the baking shield.

15 16. The kit of claim 15 wherein the sidewall of the baking shield has a first frustoconical portion and a second annular portion.

20 17. The kit of claim 12 wherein the sidewall of the baking shield includes an annular trough portion having a first end adjacent the outer rim of the receptacle and a second end extending toward the center of the receptacle.

25 18. In The kit of claim 17 wherein the second end of the annular trough portion is disposed below the outer rim of the receptacle.

19. The kit of claim 18 wherein the receptacle is made of metal foil.

20. The kit of claim 12 wherein the baking shield is made of metal foil.

21. A kit for preparing an uncooked or partially cooked pizza pie, comprising:

5 a frustoconical receptacle having a bottom, an open top, and an outer rim at the open top;
 a pizza pie disposed within the receptacle;
 a baking shield including an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding
10 therefrom;

 the baking shield further including an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening; and

15 the sidewall of the baking shield has a first frustoconical portion and a second annular portion.

22. A kit for preparing an uncooked or partially cooked pizza pie, comprising:

20 a frustoconical receptacle having a bottom, an open top, and an outer rim at the open top;
 a pizza pie disposed within the receptacle;
 a baking shield including an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding
25 therefrom;

 the baking shield further including an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening; and

30 the sidewall of the baking shield includes an annular trough portion having a first end adjacent the outer rim of the receptacle and a second end extending toward the center of the receptacle.

23. The kit of claim 22 wherein the second end of the annular trough portion is disposed below the outer rim of the receptacle.

24. A baking shield for protecting an outer sensitive portion of a food product, held in a receptacle having an outer rim, during baking, comprising:

5 an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding therefrom;

 an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening; and

10 the sidewall of the baking shield including an annular trough portion having a first end adjacent the outer rim of the receptacle and a second end extending toward the center of the receptacle.

25. The kit of claim 24 wherein the second end of the annular trough portion is disposed below the outer rim of the receptacle.

15 26. A baking shield for protecting an outer sensitive portion of a food product, held in a receptacle having an outer rim, during baking, comprising:

 an upstanding sidewall to engage the outer rim so as to be upstanding there from;

20 an upper wall inwardly extending from said sidewall so as to form a central opening; and

 the sidewall of the baking shield having a frustoconical portion disposed between first and second annular portions.